

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A hand-held cutting tool for cutting a fiber optic cable having an optical fiber surrounded by at least one protective layer comprising:

a first cutting member and a second cutting member, said first cutting member attached to said second cutting member allowing for movement between an opened position and a closed position;

said first cutting member has a blunt surface and a sharp surface, said second cutting member has a blunt surface and a sharp surface; and

wherein said blunt surface of said first cutting member and said blunt surface of said second cutting member are capable of crushing said optical fiber without cutting through said protective layer, said sharp surface of said first cutting member and said sharp surface of said second cutting member are capable of cutting through said protective layer.

2. The hand-held cutting tool as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said blunt surfaces are radially inwardly of said sharp surfaces.

3. The hand-held cutting tool as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said sharp surfaces are serrated.

4. The hand-held cutting tool as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said sharp surfaces are chrome plated.

5. The hand-held cutting tool as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising a spring biasing said cutting tool toward the open position.

6. The hand-held cutting tool as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said first cutting member is pivotally attached to said cutting member.

7. A method of cutting a fiber optic cable having an optical fiber surrounded by at least one protective layer comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a cutting tool having opposingly directed blunt surfaces and opposingly directed sharp surfaces, said cutting tool movable between an opened and a closed position;
- b) inserting said fiber optic cable between said opposingly directed blunt surfaces;
- c) moving said cutting tool to the closed position whereby crushing said optical fiber without cutting through said protective layer;
- d) moving said cutting tool to the opened position;
- e) inserting said fiber optic cable between said opposingly directed sharp surfaces; and
- f) moving said cutting tool to the closed position whereby cutting through said protective layer.

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